

Covid-19 Updates

Welcome back everyone, it's been absolutely wonderful to see the children returning after such a lovely first half term. Unfortunately we've been hit by a bit of a crisis with a positive Covid test for a member of staff that has resulted in the closing of two classes: Saturn, our Nursery class and Ariel, one of our Y4 classes. They will be isolating until the following week. It is unfortunate and I'm aware it causes stress, anxiety and inconvenience but we have to remain positive, use the guidance given and carry on as much as possible. Unfortunately these are challenges we are all facing each day, either having pupils or staff having to isolate for many reasons. We will continue as normal and always try to communicate with you all as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Roof Replacement

So amidst the current Covid crisis we are continuing with all the plans that are in place for the school roof to be replaced. You are going to see a lot of activity on the school site over the next few days as the team from Morgan Sindall will be arriving to set up their temporary site offices. We are having to have some final discussions with them about where this is going. I received plans on Friday that showed them using the majority of the visitor car park, leaving about 6 spaces for you to park when collecting or dropping off. I have asked for an urgent meeting on Monday to discuss this as I'm concerned and wasn't aware of these plans. Having discussed with Mr Rimington we are going to try and seek an alternative plan for relocating these on the playgrounds. It may reduce play zone space but that won't be too much of an issue. I will inform you all as soon as possible about the updated plans but please be aware that an increase in activity this week is going to happen. The main area it will impact on in school is the blue play zone and the walkway around the back of the building near the bike shelters and the Y5/6 exit and entrance. There will be a scaffolding tower here which will narrow the walkway so even more awareness of social distancing will need to happen here. This is planned to happen on Thursday of next week.

Children in Need

Although it feels like chaos is continuing around us, we are still determined to support and participate in this year's Children in Need fundraiser on Friday 13th November. We hope as many children as possible are going to come in and do a challenge linked to this year's theme of 'act your age'. Luckily for me it's anything linked to the number 21 of course!!!! We have a few staff challenging themselves too and can't wait to share in the exciting day but also the important fundraising and message behind it.



Remembrance Day

It has felt very different this year with the selling of poppies to support the Royal British Legion however thank you to those families who have done so. Of course Remembrance Sunday is different with no parades through cities and towns to remember the fallen. Just so you are aware, school will always mark the occasion at 11am on November 11th with a 2 minute silence across the school and we will discuss the important time for reflection. The children always observe this beautifully.



Bringing in Book Bags

Just a quick reminder to all parents and carers, to reduce the risk of transmitting infection we are asking that children don't bring books back to school in book bags. Children have been allocated a specific day to bring their book into school so they just need to return the book and put it into the box in their classroom on that day. The books are then quarantined and cleaned ready for the next time. It works really well and we are keen for you all to continue to bring your books into school. As I mentioned in my last newsletter, Reading is such a key drive for us this year and we want to support the children as much as possible through regular reading at school and at home. As always your support with this is absolutely crucial. Thank you all so much.



A little bit of tinsel!

Ok everyone, I know we are nowhere near Christmas yet but I do want to give you some information so that you are prepared early. Christmas is always such a busy time and we are going to have to make a few changes this year but we are currently preparing these for you.



Christmas Cards

We are hoping that children will be able to bring Christmas Cards in for their friends this year but we will have very strict guidance on when these can be brought in and how they will be quarantined and then distributed. Please keep an eye out for this and no Christmas Cards before December please.



Christmas Performance

As there won't be a traditional Christmas Performance this year we are at least hoping to send you something remotely but it will be kept secret until nearer the time but hopefully something you can be proud of!

Christmas Tree Festival

This year our school is taking part in the Chester Cathedral Christmas Tree Festival. We took part in it for 3 years and won each year which was incredible. I thought we'd do it again this year with little else to look forward to and spoke to the Cathedral last week and they are still planning to run it under Covid guidance. Basically we decorate a tree based on a specific theme and the public can go and visit and vote for their favourite tree. I haven't chosen a class yet to represent the school but hope to this week. It's a lovely event and well worth a visit! That's enough 'Tinsel Talk' for now!!



School Development Plan 2020-2021

Now that we have done some assessments of the children at the end of last half term we are at the business end of the school year whereby Mrs Gill and myself are currently writing the school development plan. This would normally be written in July and ready to be implemented in September. However as the school had been technically closed since March, we weren't able to do this and needed the children to be in for half a term to see where they were academically. We have almost completed this document and will be publishing it on the school website. It will identify 7 key priorities for the school this year and how we will try to meet the targets we have set ourselves. It is probably one of the most crucial documents in school linked to supporting your children's academic needs as well as their social, emotional needs too.

Remote Learning

Venus class will already be familiar with remote learning as they are the other class who have had to self-isolate so far this year and all of you had some experience of this last year when school closed. It is a key area for us to focus on this year and the government have set very clear expectations of what they expect schools to be doing if children have to self-isolate. It will be good to see how effectively this works during this week and part of next week for Saturn and Ariel classes. Mr Oldman is leading this area in school and is currently developing the range of remote learning the school can offer your children if they are at home. The expectation from the government is that learning carries on as much as possible for all children and we want to do everything we can to make sure this happens.

And Finally...

There we go everyone, that's it for this week. Apologies that I seem to be sending you information that is quite challenging but I always pride myself on being open, honest and giving you the information as quickly as possible. Thank you all so much for your continued support and lovely messages during a very difficult time, they do not go unnoticed or unappreciated. I'm so proud of our school and our community; it's unique and wonderfully connected, thanks to us all and most importantly our fabulous children. As always if you have any concerns then please email me at this address: head@deepointprimary.cheshire.sch.uk; or call the school 01244 372631. Stay safe everyone.

Kind regards

Dave Williams (Headteacher)